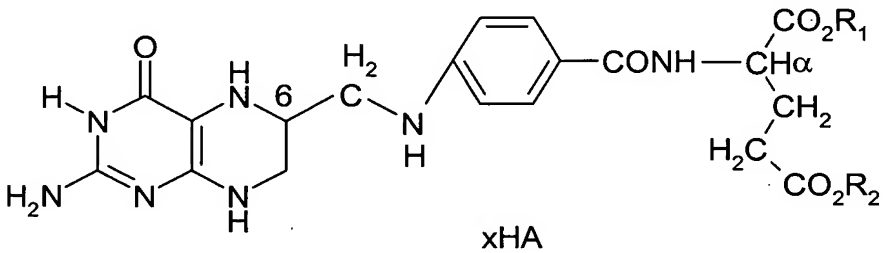
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. **(Previously Presented)** Process for preparing and concentrating (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid ester salts and (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid, comprising preparing or dissolving equimolar or concentrated mixtures of diastereomers of addition salts of tetrahydrofolic acid esters with aromatic sulphonic acids in organic solvents, followed by crystallizing them at least once, and then if applicable hydrolyzing the crystallizate to produce (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid, crystallizing the latter as a free acid or isolating it in the form of a salt.

2. **(Currently Amended)** Process according to claim 1, wherein the addition salts of the tetrahydrofolic acid esters ~~satisfy~~ of formula III, which includes the (6S,αS), (6S,αR), (6R,αS) and (6R,αR) diastereomers,



(III),

wherein R_1 and R_2, independently of one another, represent a monovalent hydrocarbon radical or a heterohydrocarbon radical attached via a C atom, with heteroatoms selected from the group -O-, -S- and -N-, or one of R_1 and R_2 is H, and the other is a monovalent hydrocarbon radical or a heterohydrocarbon radical defined above,

HA stands for an aromatic sulphonic acid,

and x denotes an integer from 1 to 6 or a fractional number between 0 and 6.

3. – 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic sulphonic acids ~~satisfy~~ of formula IV,

$$R_3\text{-}SO_3H \qquad (IV),$$

in which R_3 represents unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted with C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl or C_1-C_4 alkoxy.

7. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 6, wherein one of the aromatic sulphonic acids is benzene sulphonic acid or p-toluene sulphonic acid.

8. – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the mixtures contain the (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) diastereomers respectively in a proportion of at least 5 percent by weight or more.

11. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the organic solvents are polar organic solvents that dissolve at least 1 g of addition salt of a tetrahydrofolic acid ester per liter of solvent at a boiling temperature.

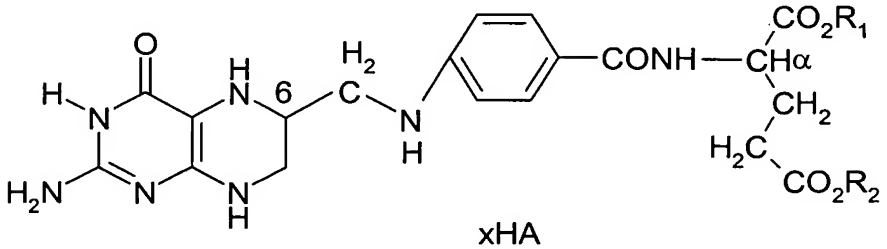
12. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein alcohols or mixtures of alcohols with at least one further solvent are used.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) Process according to claim 1, further comprising providing a reaction solution from the hydrogenation of folic acid esters, or from the hydrogenation of addition salts of folic acid esters and aromatic sulphonic acids, or from the hydrogenation of folic acid in the presence of sulphonic acids.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing and concentrating a (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid ester salt or a (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid, comprising preparing or dissolving an equimolar or a concentrated mixture of a diastereomer of an addition salt of a tetrahydrofolic acid ester with an aromatic sulphonic acid in an organic solvent, wherein the tetrahydrofolic acid ester is of the formula:



xHA (III),

R_1 and R_2, are independently, C_1-C_4 alkyl,

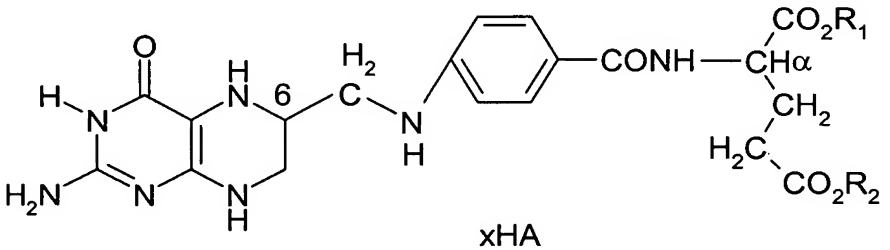
HA stands for the aromatic sulphonic acid,

and x denotes an integer from 1 to 6 or a fractional number between 0 and 6,

then crystallizing at least once, and optionally, hydrolyzing the crystallizate to produce (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid, crystallizing the latter as a free acid or isolating the tetrahydrofolic acid in the form of a salt.

17. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 6, wherein R_1 and R_2 are methyl.

18. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing and concentrating a (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid ester salt or a (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid, comprising preparing or dissolving an equimolar or a concentrated mixture of a diastereomer of an addition salt of a tetrahydrofolic acid or tetrahydrofolic acid ester with an aromatic sulphonic acid in an organic solvent, wherein the tetrahydrofolic acid or tetrahydrofolic acid ester is of the formula III,



xHA (III),

wherein ~~R_1 and R_2 are H, and~~ one of R_1 and R_2 is H and the other represents, or both R_1 and R_2, independently of one another[[,]] represent, a monovalent hydrocarbon radical or a heterohydrocarbon radical attached via a C atom, wherein the heteroatom is -O-, -S-, or -N-,

HA stands for the aromatic sulphonic acid,

and x denotes an integer or a fractional number of 0.5-2.0,

then crystallizing at least once, and optionally hydrolyzing the crystallizate to produce (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid, crystallizing the latter as a free acid or isolating the tetrahydrofolic acid in the form of a salt.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 17, wherein in the formula III, x is 1 or 2 or a fractional number of 0.5-2, and HA is phenyl-, toluyl-, fluoro-, chloro- or trifluoromethylphenyl sulphonic acid.

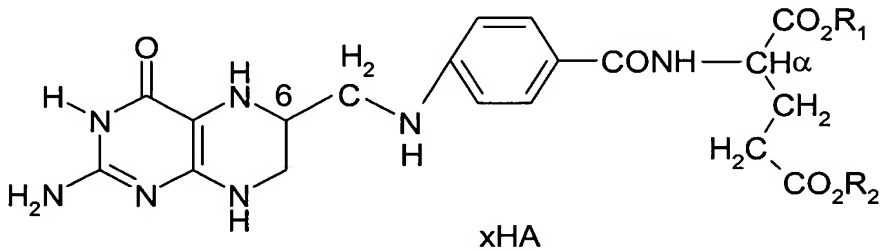
20. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 17, wherein in the formula III, x is 1 or 2 or a fractional number of 0.5-2, and HA is phenyl- or ~~p-toluyl sulphonic~~ p-toluylsulphonic acid.

21. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing and concentrating a (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid ester salt or a (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid, comprising blending an equimolar or a concentrated mixture of a diastereomer of an addition salt from a ~~tetrahydrofolic acid or~~ tetrahydrofolic acid ester with an aromatic sulphonic acid in a solvent and then heating the mixture to dissolve the addition salt of the tetrahydrofolic acid or tetrahydrofolic acid ester and the aromatic sulphonic acid, thereafter cooling down the solution, whereupon the (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) diastereomer crystallizes out or both diastereomers crystallize out, and then separating the latter using filtration.

22. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing and concentrating a (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid ester salt or a (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid, comprising preparing or dissolving an equimolar or a concentrated mixture of a diastereomer of an addition salt of a ~~tetrahydrofolic acid or~~ tetrahydrofolic acid ester with an aromatic

sulphonic acid in an organic solvent, followed by crystallizing at least once, and hydrolyzing with a base a (6S,αS) or (6S,αR) tetrahydrofolic acid or a mixture thereof, and crystallizing the tetrahydrofolic acid as a free acid or isolating the tetrahydrofolic acid in the form of a salt.

23. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the addition salts of the tetrahydrofolic acid esters are of the formula III, which includes the (6S,αS), (6S,αR), (6R,αS) and (6R,αR) diastereomers,



(III),

wherein R_1 and R_2, independently of one another, represent a monovalent hydrocarbon radical or a heterohydrocarbon radical attached via a C atom, wherein the heteroatom is -O-, -S-, or -N-,

HA stands for an aromatic sulphonic acid,

and x denotes an integer from 1 to 6 or a fractional number between 0 and 6.